

# ***Iowa Petroleum Update***

December 17, 2004

## **Propane**

According to the DNR's December 13, 2004, State Heating Oil and Propane Program (SHOPP) Survey, the average retail price of propane in Iowa was \$1.27/gallon, \$0.03 lower than the previous month and 23.3 percent above the retail price of propane at this time last year. (DNR SHOPP survey)

The December 15, 2004, wholesale price of propane was \$0.78/gallon, \$0.04 lower than the previous month, and 19.5 percent higher than this time last year. (NYMEX Posting)

As of December 10, 2004, **Midwest propane inventory** was at 20.7 million barrels, 0.1 million barrels (0.4 percent) higher than last month and 11.8 percent lower than last year's level at this time. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

By December 10, 2004, **U.S. propane inventory** stood at 61.5 million barrels, 3.4 million barrels (5.2 percent) lower than last month and 3.4 percent higher than last year's level at this time. U.S. propane inventories are at the top of the average range for this time of year. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

## **Heating Oil and Distillate**

The DNR SHOPP survey completed on December 13, 2004, indicated that heating oil was \$1.60/gallon, \$0.10 lower than the previous month and 40.4 percent higher than the price of heating oil at this time last year. (DNR SHOPP survey)

The December 15, 2004, wholesale cost of heating oil was \$1.36/gallon, \$0.05 higher than last month and 46.9 percent above the wholesale price of heating oil at this time last year. (NYMEX Posting)

On December 10, 2004, **Midwest distillate inventory** was at 26.5 million barrels, 1.5 million barrels (6.0 percent) higher than last month and 13.7 percent lower than last year's stock level at this time. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

On December 10, 2004, total **U.S. distillate inventory** was 119.3 million barrels, 4.7 million barrels (4.1 percent) higher than last month. U.S. distillate inventory is 8.7 percent below last year's levels at this time, and below the normal range of distillate stocks for this time of year. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

As of December 10, 2004, refiners utilized 93.7 percent of their 16.8 million barrels per day operating capacity, 0.2 percentage points higher than last month. (OPIS DOE Inventory Report)

## **Natural Gas**

On December 15, 2004, natural gas was trading at \$7.04/MMBtu, \$0.62 higher than last month, and 4.8 percent higher than the price of natural gas this time last year. (NYMEX Posting)

On December 10, 2004, U.S. natural gas stocks in storage totaled 3,150 Bcf, 171 Bcf (5.1 percent) lower than the previous month and 14.3 percent above the five-year average. (EIA Natural Gas Weekly)

The December 10, 2004, natural gas rotary rig count was 1,070, 0.8 percent lower than last month. The rig count is 11.6 percent higher than last year's levels at this time. (Baker Hughes Rig Count)

## **Transportation Fuels**

The December 15, 2004, survey indicated that Iowans paid an average of \$1.71/gallon for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline, down \$0.16 from the previous month. A year ago, the average price was \$1.42. (DNR survey)

The December 15, 2004, survey found that the average price of regular unleaded with ethanol was \$1.69/gallon, down \$0.15 from the previous month. A year ago, the average price was \$1.39. The latest data shows ethanol-blended gasoline represents 65 percent of all retail gasoline sold in Iowa. (DNR survey)

The December 13, 2004, **Midwest gasoline price** average was \$1.72/gallon for regular self-serve conventional unleaded gasoline, down \$0.15 from last month. A year ago, the average was \$1.41/gallon. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

The December 13, 2004, **U.S. gasoline price** average was \$1.80/gallon for regular self-serve conventional unleaded gasoline, down \$0.12 from last month. A year ago, the average was \$1.43/gallon. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

On December 10, 2004, **Midwest gasoline stocks** were at 50.0 million barrels, 0.4 million barrels (0.8 percent) lower than last month, and 4.4 percent lower than last year's stock at this time. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

By December 10, 2004, total **U.S. motor gasoline stocks** were at 209.6 million barrels, 8.7 million barrels (4.3 percent) higher than last month, and 3.6 percent higher than last year's stock level at this time. Gasoline stocks are above the normal range for this time of year. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

As of December 10, 2004, U.S. gasoline demand was at 9.3 million barrels per day, 3.8 percent higher than this time last year.

## **Diesel Fuel**

The December 15, 2004, average price of self-serve diesel fuel in Iowa was \$1.95, down \$0.16 from last month. Diesel fuel was \$1.50 per gallon one year ago (DNR Survey)

The December 13, 2004, average price of **Midwest diesel fuel** was \$1.95/gallon, down \$0.14 from last month. A year ago, the average was \$1.45/gallon. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

As of December 10, 2004, **Midwest diesel stocks** were at 20.1 million barrels, 2.4 million barrels (13.6 percent) higher than last month and 13.7 percent lower than last year's stock level at this time. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

On December 10, 2004, **U.S. diesel stocks** were at 69.4 million barrels, 3.9 million barrels (6.0 percent) higher than the previous month and 11.4 percent lower than the previous year's level at this time. U.S. diesel inventories are below the average range for this time of year. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

## **Crude Oil**

Crude oil finished trading on December 15, 2004, at \$44.20/barrel, \$2.65 lower than the previous month and 32.4 percent higher than last year at this time. One year ago, crude oil was \$33.38/barrel. (NYMEX Posting)

On December 10, 2004, **U.S. crude oil stocks** totaled 293.8 million barrels, up 1.5 million barrels from the previous month and 7.7 percent higher than this time last year. Crude oil stocks are in the middle of the inventory range for this time of year. (EIA This Week in Petroleum)

For more information contact: Energy and Waste Management Bureau, Wallace State Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA 50319. Jennifer Moehlmann, Phone: 515/281-8715, Fax: 515/281-6794, E-mail: Jennifer.Moehlmann@dnr.state.ia.us